



Virginia Green Outdoors & Sports



Birdsong Pleasure Garden Luray, VA

Virginia Green is the Commonwealth of Virginia's campaign to promote environmentally-friendly practices in all aspects of Virginia's tourism industry. **Virginia Green** has established "core activities" specific to each sector of tourism, and these practices are considered the required minimum for participation in the program. However, **Virginia Green** encourages its participants to reduce their environmental impacts in all aspects of their operations, and this profile provides a full list of all their "green" activities. These are the activities that guests / customers can expect to find when they visit this facility.

Birdsong Pleasure Garden

Birdsong Pleasure Garden allows visitors a chance to escape the hustle and bustle of life while offering them a variety of picturesque gardens, mountain vistas, strolling paths, al fresco dining, and water features. It is a garden of pleasure and learning, relaxing yet filled with ideas to take home.

We are strong believers in recycling, reducing waste, providing habitats, and doing what we can to help the environment and world we live in.

As part of our garden tour, we show and discuss ways to grow vegetables, show ways to plant and maintain various perennials, shrubs and trees, and as a Certified Wildlife Habitat Partner with the Virginia Dept. of Game and Inland Fisheries we show and discuss ways to provide habitat for many animal species.

Virginia Green Activities

This facility pledges that they:

Recycle.

- Glass bottles
- Cardboard
- Plastic bottles
- Aluminum cans
- Are located in an area where a comprehensive recycling program is not feasible and have developed a written explanation of the recycling opportunities we do provide; staff is able to address the topic with guests.

Other items recycled by the facility

- Steel cans
- Newspapers
- Office paper

- Printer/copy machine toner cartridges
- Fluorescent lamps (may be required by law)
- Batteries (may be required by law for NiCad and Lead-Acid)
- Electronics equipment - computers, etc. (may be required law)
- Please identify your recycling vendor(s) or service (the company and/or local government that collects your recyclables) (*required for Virginia Green*): _____ Republic

Minimize the use of disposable food service products.

- Use disposable
- Use disposable food service items that are recyclable in your area
- Please list the disposable food service products that are used at your facility: (*required for Virginia Green*) If our guests bring their meals to dine al fresco (picnic) we will help them dispose of any unwanted

Reduce solid waste.

- Track overall solid waste costs (*required for Virginia Green*)
- Use bulk soap dispensers in public restrooms
- Purchase recycled-content paper-towels and toilet paper

Office

- Remove facility and staff names from junk mail lists when possible
- Reuse scrap paper for notes
- Use refillable pens and toner cartridges
- Purchase recycled paper with a high-percentage recycled content
- Use electronic correspondence and forms when possible

Buildings and grounds

- Use green cleaning products that are dispensed in bulkUse green cleaning products that are dispensed in bulk
- Use reused building materials or those from sustainable sources
- Use latex, low or no-VOC paints
- Re-use paint thinners
- Properly recycle and/or dispose of thinners and solvents (required by law)
- Perform preventative maintenance on all appliances, HVAC systems, plumbing, and vehicles
- Use integrated pest management (IPM)
- Minimize use of pesticides and herbicides in landscaping
- Other Activity: recycle food scraps in compost, compost vegetation, recycle wood chips into planting beds.

Use water efficiently.

- Track overall water usage and wastewater costs (*required for Virginia Green*)
- Perform preventative maintenance to stop drips and leaks
- Low flow faucets and showerheads (use less than 2.5 gallons per minute)
- Low flow toilets (use 1.6 gallons per flush or less)
- Have an effective landscape management plan that includes one or more of the following:

- Utilizes native species
- Utilizes metering and rain gauges
- Minimizes lawn areas
- Have installed rain barrels
- Maintain vegetative buffers around streams and ponds
- Use a nutrient management plan that minimizes the use of fertilizers
- Other actions taken related to water conservation & efficiency: Bucket water from faucets while waiting for the hot water. Use this water for bird baths or plants

Conserve energy.

- Track overall energy bills (*required for Virginia Green*)
- Have installed ceiling fans
- Use natural lighting

Source of energy

- Have installed compact fluorescent light bulbs in all rooms and canned lighting
- Use ENERGY STAR qualified appliances (commercial kitchens, heating and cooling, consumer electronics)
- Use ENERGY STAR qualified office equipment (computers, monitors, copiers, printers, etc.)
- Have adopted a policy/practice to turn off fans, computers, monitors and other devices in unoccupied rooms at the end of the workday or when otherwise not being used
- Other actions taken related to energy conservation & efficiency: Strategic planting of trees to shade house for cooling. Use of cooling breezes to keep house cool

For more information on **Birdsong Pleasure Garden**, see www.birdsongpleasuregarden.info/ or contact Lesley Mack at birdsongpleasuregarden@gmail.com or 540-743-9389.

For more information on the Virginia Green program, see www.deq.state.va.us/Programs/PollutionPrevention/VirginiaGreen.aspx.



Virginia Green is a partnership supported by the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality, the Virginia Hospitality & Tourism Association, and the Virginia Tourism Corporation.

